#5
Sudamagaeshi

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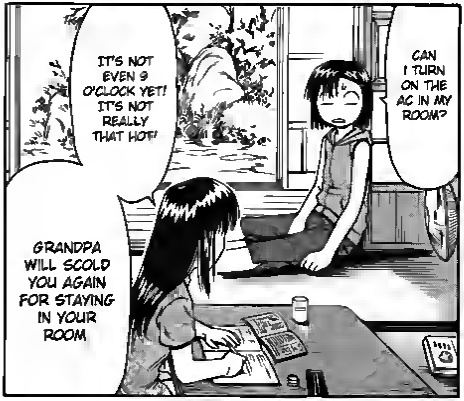
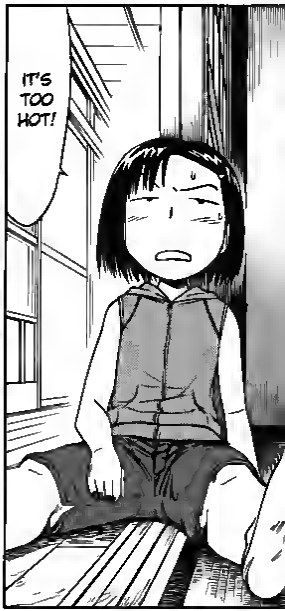
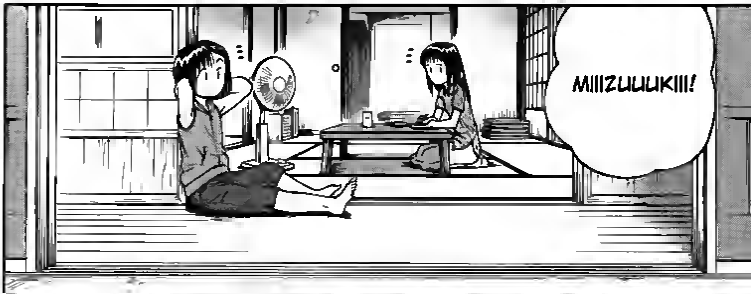
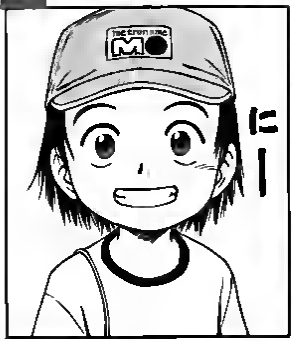

IT'S NOT EVEN 9 O'CLOCK YET! IT'S NOT REALLY THAT HOT!
CAN I TURN ON THE AC IN MY ROOM?
GRANDPA WILL SCOLD YOU AGAIN FOR STAYING IN YOUR ROOM

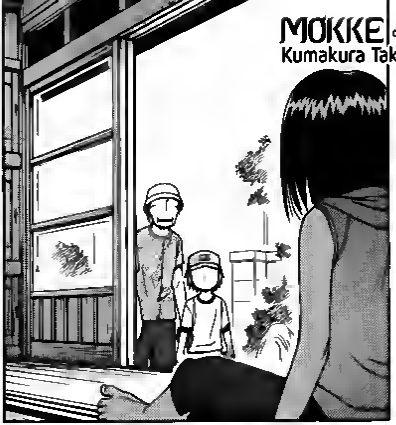

IT'S TOO HOT!

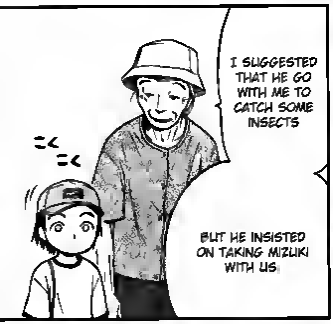
I GUESS I'LL JUST GO TO THE LIBRARY INSTEAD
BUT WE DON'T HAVE THE SAME BODY TEMPERATURE AS HIM.

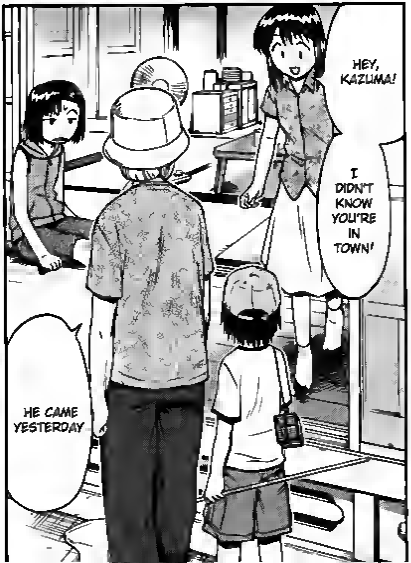

MIIIZUUUUKIII!

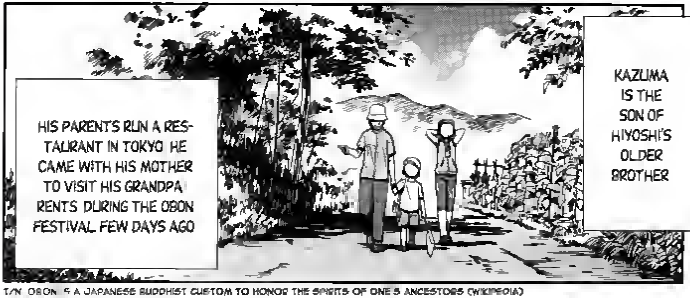
MANGA SYNDROME
TRANSLATOR & EDITOR: REBEL
PROOFREADING: SHOREIJUU



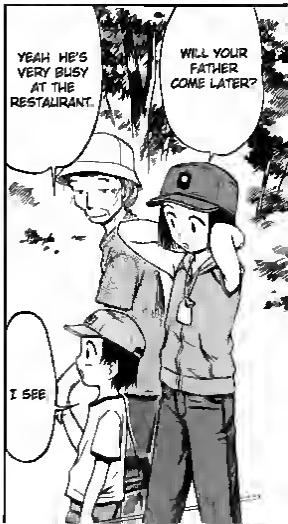




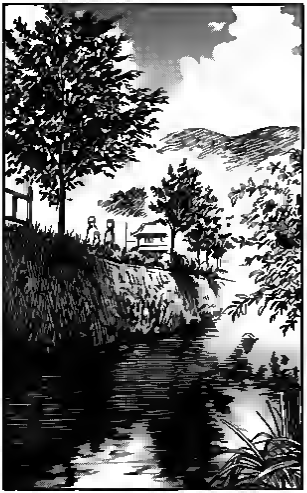


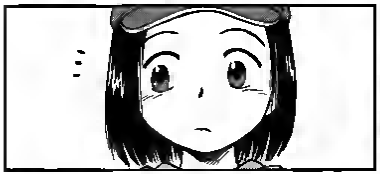

KAZUMA IS THE SON OF HIYOSHI'S OLDER BROTHER
HIS PARENTS RUN A RESTAURANT IN TOKYO. HE CAME WITH HIS MOTHER TO VISIT HIS GRANDPARENTS DURING THE OBON FESTIVAL. FEW DAYS AGO

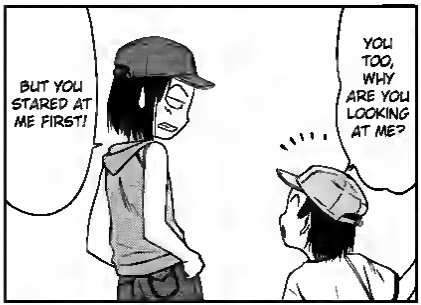
T/N: OBON = A JAPANESE BUDDHIST CUSTOM TO HONOR THE SPIRITS OF ONE'S ANCESTORS (WIKIPEDIA)

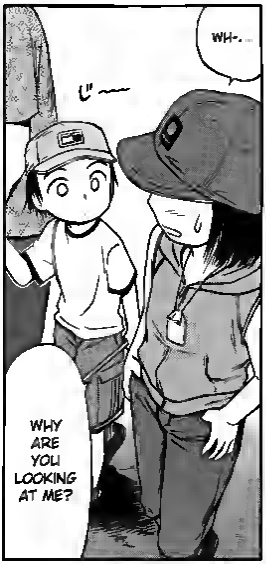


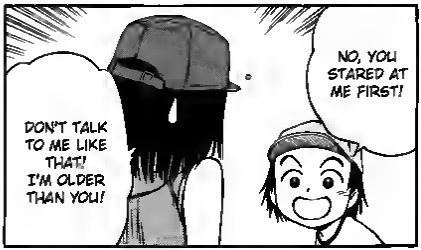
ONE CAN EASILY GET POSSESSED BY SPIRITS IN THESE BUSHES, BUT IT'S OKAY I HAVE MY PROTECTIVE CHARM.
BESIDES SINCE HIS GRANDMA IS WITH US WE WON'T GO DEEP INTO DANGEROUS AREAS



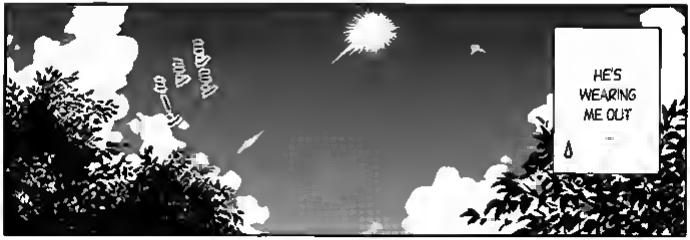


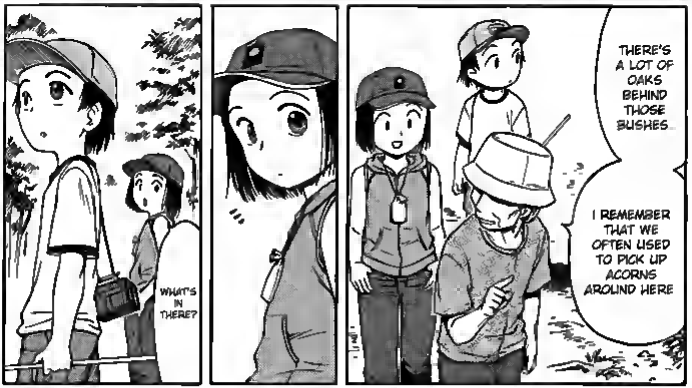

BUT YOU STARED AT ME FIRST!
YOU TOO, WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT ME?

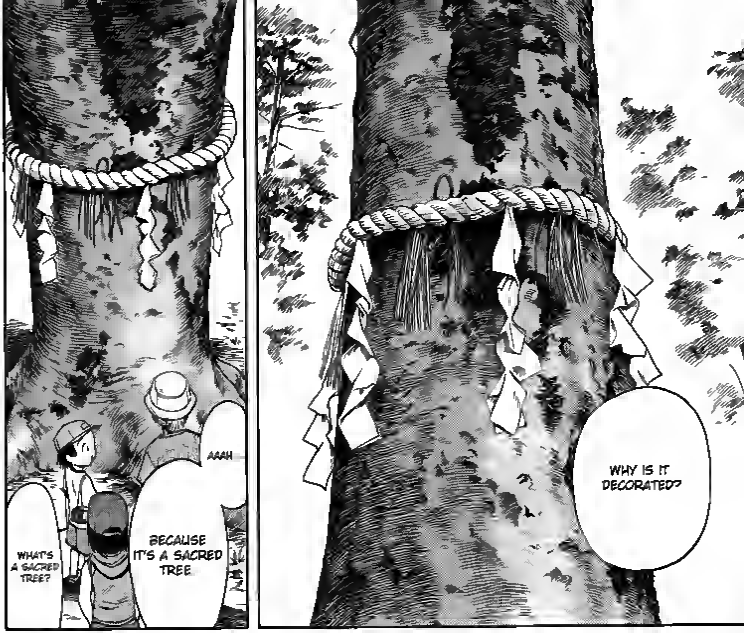

WH-...
U"
WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT ME?

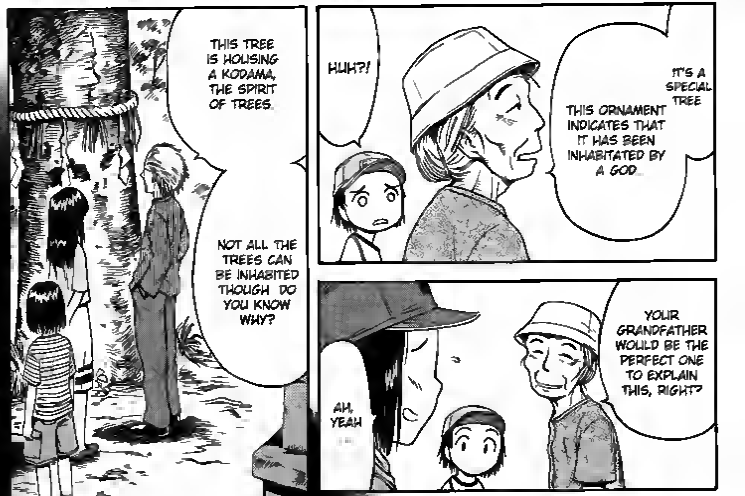

NO, YOU STARED AT ME FIRST!
DON'T TALK TO ME LIKE THAT! I'M OLDER THAN YOU!

AND STOP REPEATING WHAT I SAY!
はは
KAZUMA LIKES YOU, MIZUKI.
OKAY THEN
.....
IN THAT CASE, BEHAVE YOURSELF.
AND I'LL BE NICE TO YOU.
NO, I DON'T LIKE YOU
DON'T LIKE YOU AT ALL!
YOU FILTHY BRAT...
KAZUMA USUALLY SAYS THE OPPOSITE OF WHAT HE THINKS
YESTERDAY, HE KEPT SAYING HOW HE'S GOING TO HAVE A LOT OF FUN WITH YOU.
I NEVER SAID THAT!
.....

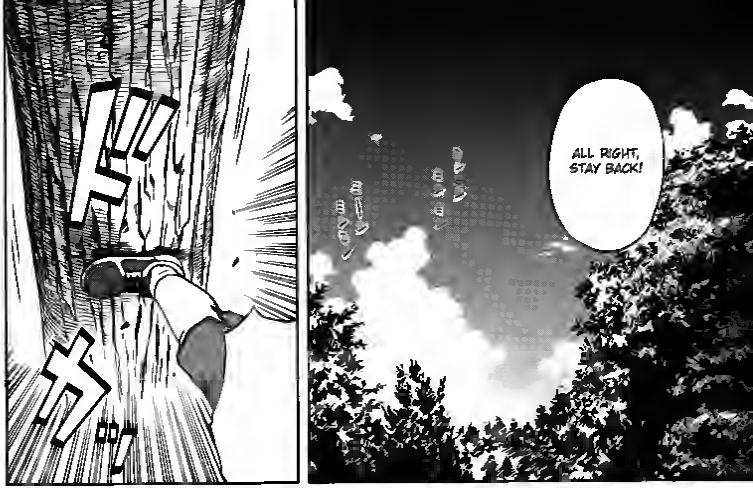

HE'S WEARING ME OUT

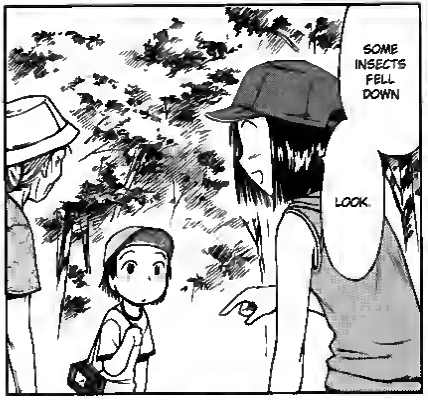

WHAT'S IN THERE?
THERE'S A LOT OF OAKS BEHIND THOSE BUSHES
I REMEMBER THAT WE OFTEN USED TO PICK UP ACORNS AROUND HERE


WHY IS IT DECORATED?
AAAH
BECAUSE IT'S A SACRED TREE
WHAT'S A SACRED TREE?


HUH?!
IT'S A SPECIAL TREE
THIS ORNAMENT INDICATES THAT IT HAS BEEN INHABITATED BY A GOD
THIS TREE IS HOUSING A KODAMA, THE SPIRIT OF TREES.
NOT ALL THE TREES CAN BE INHABITED THOUGH. DO YOU KNOW WHY?
YOUR GRANDFATHER WOULD BE THE PERFECT ONE TO EXPLAIN THIS, RIGHT?
AH, YEAH

SO WHY DO YOU THINK THIS TREE WAS CHOSEN AMONG ALL THE OTHERS?
IT'S BECAUSE IT HAS A STRONG PERSONALITY
PERHAPS BECAUSE IT'S VERY RARE TO FIND SUCH HUGE AND OLD TREES
THAT'S RIGHT, BUT NOT ALL THE VENERABLE TREES ARE CAPABLE OF HOUSING A SPIRIT.
THIS SACRED TREE DOESN'T JUST HOUSE A SPIRIT; IT IS ALSO CALLED A "KODAMA" SINCE IT REPRESENTS A MESSENGER OF GOD.
IN OTHER WORDS, FOR A TREE TO HOUSE A SPIRIT, IT MUST BE CAPABLE OF DOING SO
HOWEVER, IF SPIRITS INHABITATE TREES THAT ARE NOT WORSHIPED, THEY TEND TO PLAY NASTY TRICKS.
SO BE CAREFUL.
...!
OH, SORRY KAZUMA.
GRANDMA
LET'S GO
I ALSO REMEMBER THERE'S A TREE BIGGER THAN THIS.
I THINK IT'S NOT VERY FAR FROM HERE


ALL RIGHT, STAY BACK!


SOME INSECTS FELL DOWN
LOOK

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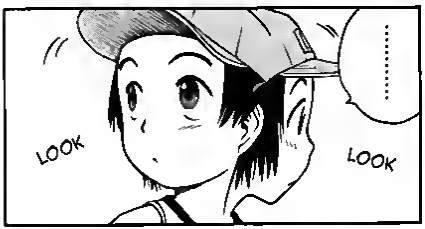
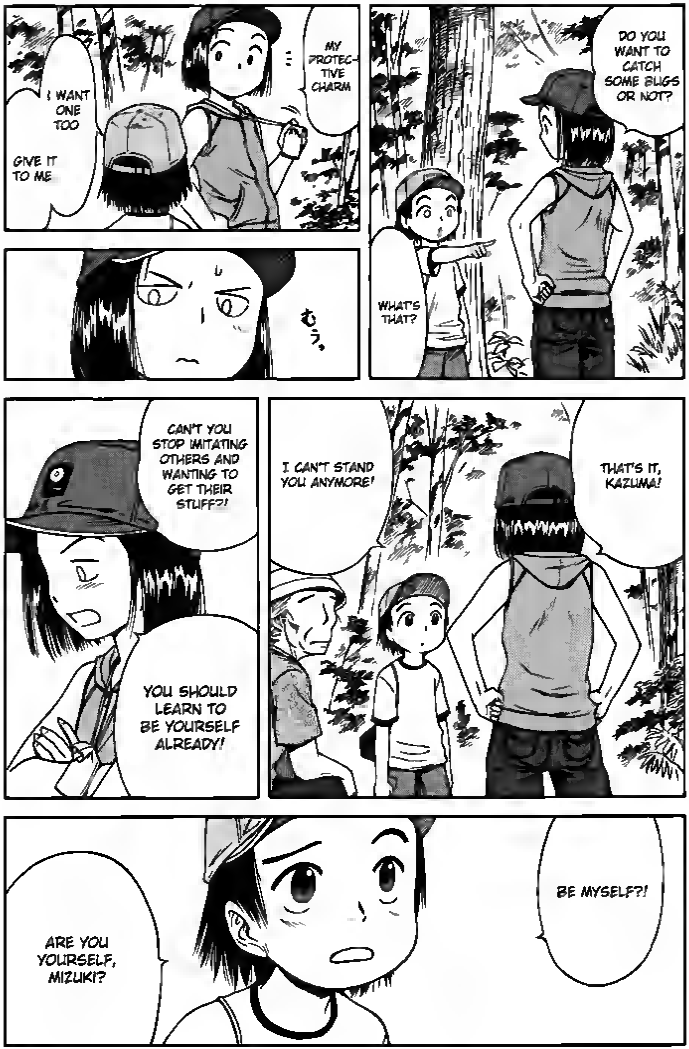
パラパラ
パラ


……
LOOK
LOOK

HEY!
STOP!
ドカ ドカ ドカ
NOT ALL TREES HAS INSECTS
ちょっぴ
AND DON'T KICK THE POOR TREE LIKE THAT
TOLD YOU TO LOOK AT THE GROUND.
YOU CAN FIND SOME IN THE MOLDY WOOD TOO.
LOOK HERE, KAZUMA.
IT'S A SMALL LUCANUS
SEE?
?
ガサ ガサ
-SIGH-
GEEZ...


DO YOU WANT TO CATCH SOME BUGS OR NOT?
WHAT'S THAT?
MY PROTECTIVE CHARM
I WANT ONE TOO
GIVE IT TO ME
むう。
CAN'T YOU STOP IMITATING OTHERS AND WANTING TO GET THEIR STUFF?!
YOU SHOULD LEARN TO BE YOURSELF ALREADY!
I CAN'T STAND YOU ANYMORE!
THAT'S IT, KAZUMA!
BE MYSELF?!
ARE YOU YOURSELF, MIZUKI?

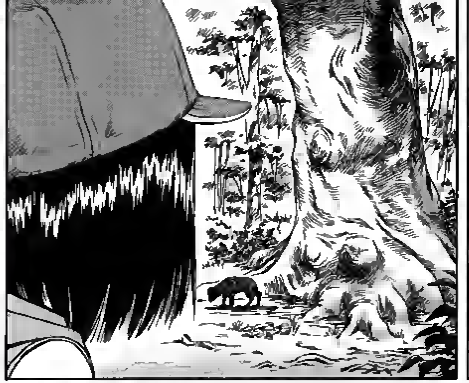
OKAY, THEN SHOW ME HOW TO DO IT.
EEEH!
ERR...
UHHH, YEAH, OF COURSE...
UGH
SO I'LL JUST GIVE HIM THE POCKET.
WHAT'S IMPORTANT IS WHAT'S INSIDE
WELL, YOU DIDN'T GET IT AT ALL.
YOU'RE ANNOYING. YOU KNOW THAT?!
HERE.
YAAAY!
THANKS A BUNCH!
SORRY ABOUT THAT, MIZUKI.
WHERE DID YOU LEARN THAT?!
WHAT DO WE SAY NOW, KAZUMA?

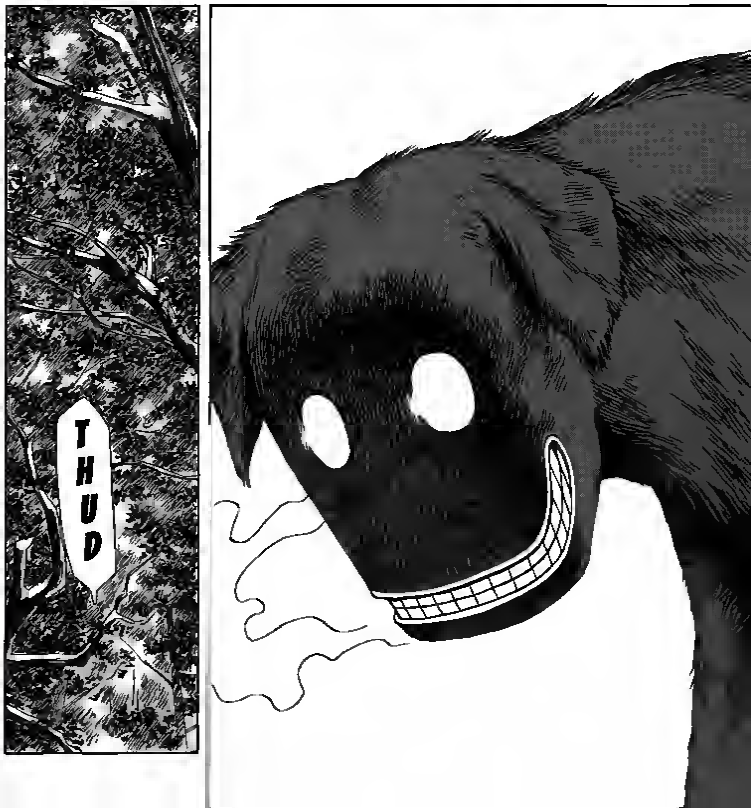
MY NEPHEW INSISTED THAT WE DO SO
SO WE'RE GOING NEAR THE OAK WHERE THE GIANT STAG BEETLES WERE FOUND
OH MIZUKI! IT'S BEEN A WHILE!
IT LOOKS LIKE YOU CAME TO CATCH INSECTS TOO
TEACHER?
WHAT ARE WE HERE FOR THEN?!
YOU'RE A REAL PAIN IN THE NECK!
HOW ABOUT WE GO LOOK FOR THEM TOO, KAZUMA?
THERE WERE BEFORE, BUT I'M NOT SURE NOW!
OH! SO THERE ARE GIANT STAG BEETLES, HUH!
DON'T WANNA!
THE MORE THE MERRIER.
HMPH!
OKAY, LET'S GO!

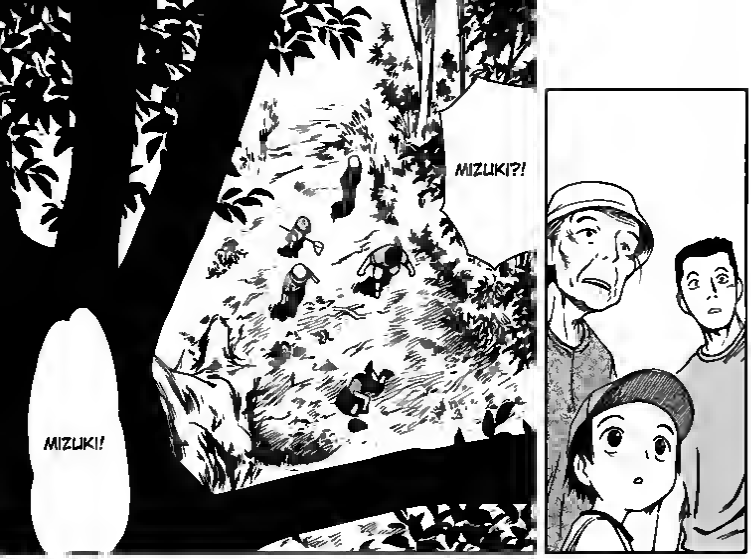
UHMM, I THINK IT'S THIS WAY
HUH?
YOU MEAN THE HUGE TREE
YOU TOLD US ABOUT EARLIER?
YES
ミーンミーン
IT'S THIS ONE
ミンミン
ミーン

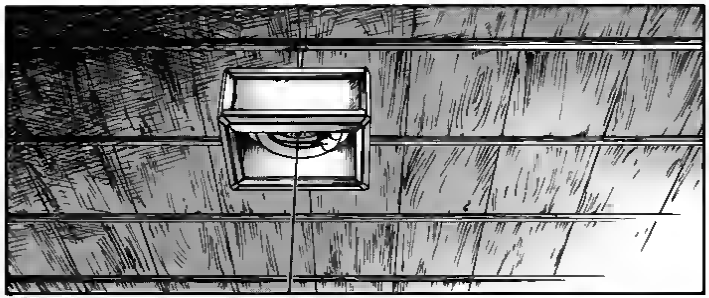
WOW!
IT'S LIKE YOU SAID
IT'S REALLY BIG
WATCH YOUR STEPS!
...
MIZUKI, YOU COMING OR NOT!
HUH?!
EH! AAH!
AHH...

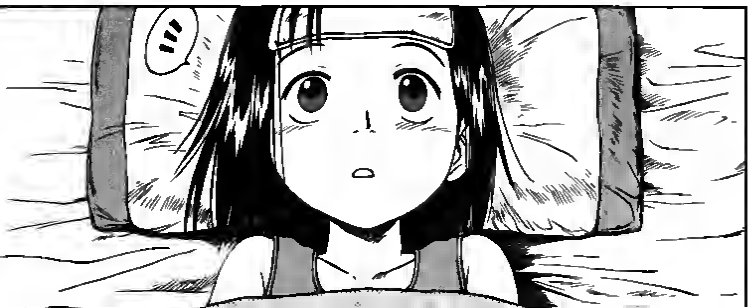
すってーん
WAAA!
ARE YOU OKAY?
OOW
I EVEN WARNED YOU!
A LOT OF PEOPLE FALL BEFORE THIS TREE
THEY TEND TO GET AMAZED THEN SPACE OUT.
TOUGH LUCK FOR ME!
SEARCH
MY PROTECTIVE CHARM.
I LOST IT!
THIS ISN'T GOOD!
I THINK I SAW A DOG RIGHT THERE
WHAT?
IT WAS BLACK
ARE YOU SURE?




THUD

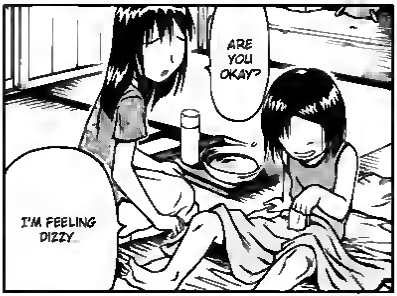

MIZUKI?!
MIZUKI!




!!!

HUH?
WHY AM I HERE?
YOU FAINTED
THE TEACHER CARRIED YOU ALL THE WAY HOME.

OH,
YOU'RE AWAKE


ARE YOU OKAY?
I'M FEELING DIZZY..

HE WAS WORRIED AND THOUGHT YOU WERE HURT WHEN YOU FELL
.....

.....

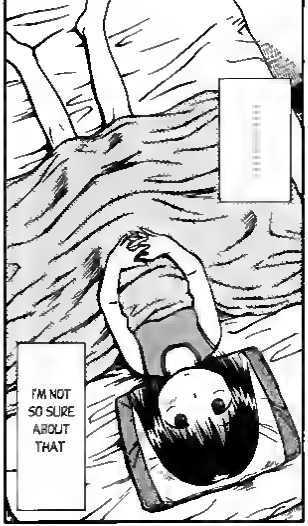
I WONDER WHAT IT WAS..
THAT DOG..

DO YOU WANT SOME WATER?
YES

MIZUKI,
ARE YOU HURT ANYWHERE?
ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE FEELING FINE?
UMM..
YEAH, I GUESS
WHY?
スラ
YOU'RE AWAKE
GRANDPA!

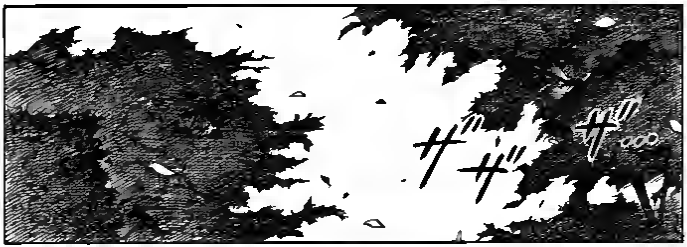
EEH... YEAH...
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR PROTECTIVE CHARM? DID YOU LOSE IT?
HMMM
IF THIS KEEPS ON HAPPENING, I'M GONNA HAVE TO MARK IT ON YOUR SKIN
THAT'S NOT FUNNY...
WELL, FOR NOW,
REST AS MUCH AS YOU CAN
IT SHOULDN'T BE THAT BAD, GIVEN HIS REACTION
ERR... YEAH
.....
.....
パタン!

FOR NOW, IT'S NOT DOING MUCH HARM.
BUT WE NEED TO WATCH OVER HER
WILL SHE BE FINE?
SHE'S POSSESSED AGAIN.
IT'S A COMMON CASE.
HOWEVER, IT MIGHT PROVE TO BE A LITTLE TOUGH FOR A KID TO HANDLE.


I'M NOT SO SURE ABOUT THAT

ARE YOU YOURSELF, MIZUKI?
BE MYSELF?

UUH, YEAH, OF COURSE.



BECAUSE IT HAS A STRONG PERSONALITY.

IT'S NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF ITS SIZE OR ITS FORM, BUT HOW CAN I SAY THIS... IT'S LIKE I FELT THE TREE ITSELF
THIS TREE GIVES OFF A STRANGE FEELING. IT FEELS EVEN STRANGER THAN THE SACRED TREE WE SAW EARLIER

THIS IS WHAT I FEEL. BUT I DON'T KNOW IF THE TREE THINKS IN THE SAME MANNER. IN FACT, EVERYONE MAY PERCEIVE A PERSONALITY DIFFERENTLY
SINCE IT HAS IT'S OWN PERSONALITY

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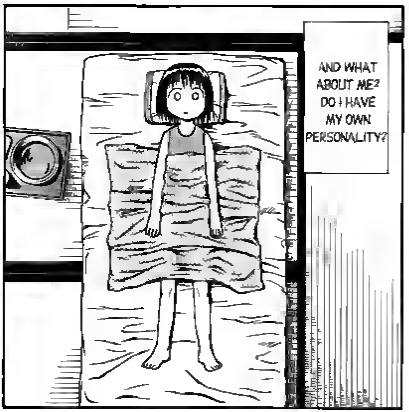
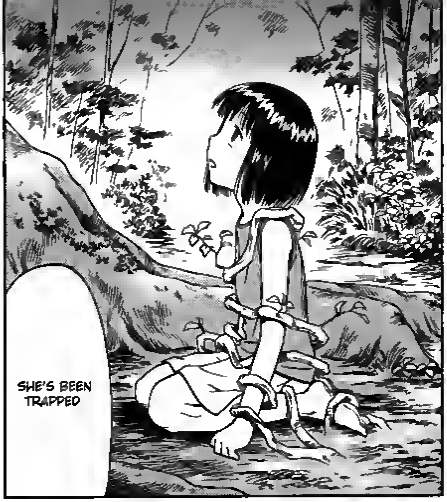

AND WHAT ABOUT ME? DO I HAVE MY OWN PERSONALITY?

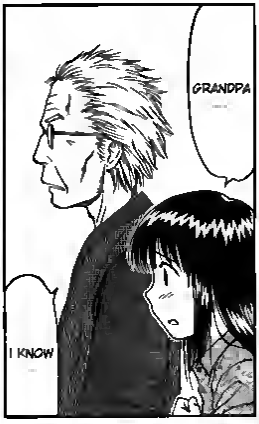
KID, TELL ME.
!
YOU RECOGNIZED YOURSELF IN ME, DIDN'T YOU?
YOU FELT A SPECIAL PRESENCE IN ME, RIGHT?
IT'S YOUR OWN PERSONALITY.
THEREFORE, I Am YOU...
I Am ...
YOU...

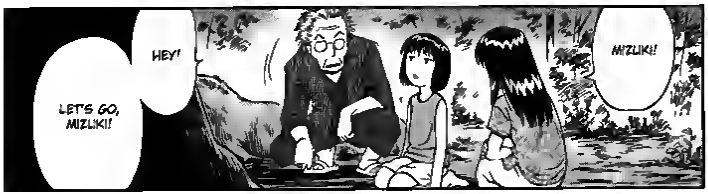
CHERISH ME.
ACCOMPANY ME.
!
SHOW ME YOUR ANGER SHOW ME YOUR TEARS
LET US STAY TOGETHER
FOR YOU...
YOU ARE ME

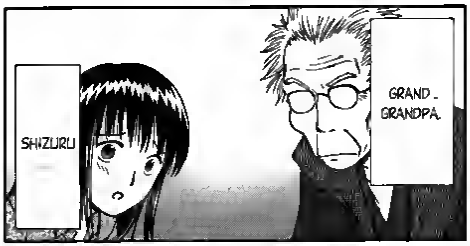
IS MIZUKI DOING FINE?
YES
I'M SORRY TO HAVE TROUBLED YOU
カナカナ
カナ
G-...
GRANDPA!

DON'T PANIC.
SHE'S MOST LIKELY NEAR THE TREE
呆ー


SHE'S BEEN TRAPPED

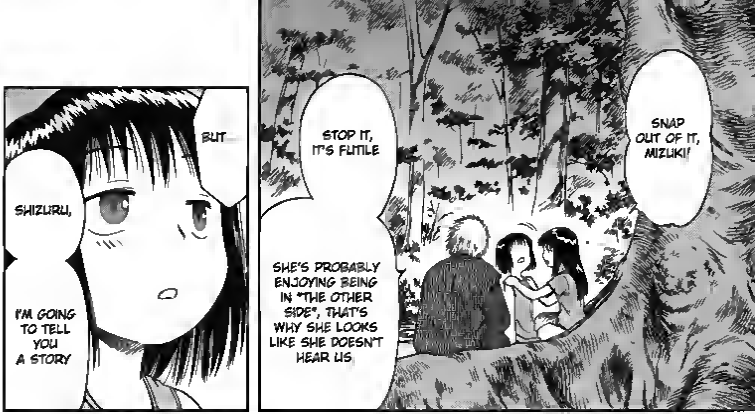

GRANDPA
I KNOW

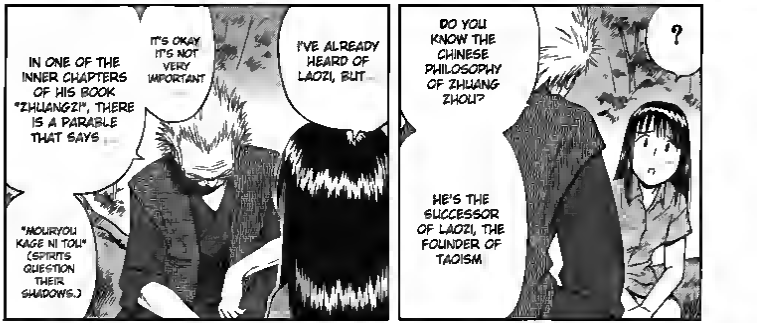

HEY!
LET'S GO, MIZUKI!
MIZUKI!

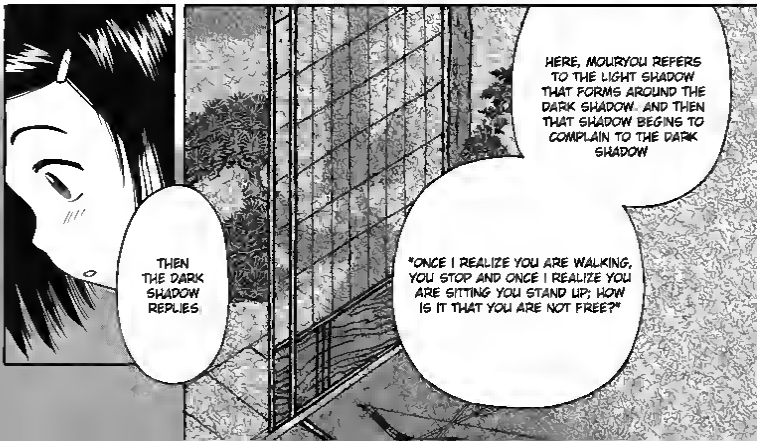

SHIZURU
GRAND-GRANDPA

BE CAREFUL.

THOSE PEOPLE ARE STRANGERS ...
YOU HAVE TO LISTEN ONLY TO YOUR OWN VOICE. IF YOU WANT TO STAY BEING YOURSELF
SO, WHO ARE YOU?
AH
I AM.
SIGH
ちら


SNAP OUT OF IT, MIZUKI!
STOP IT, IT'S FUTILE
SHE'S PROBABLY ENJOYING BEING IN "THE OTHER SIDE", THAT'S WHY SHE LOOKS LIKE SHE DOESN'T HEAR US
BUT
SHIZURU,
I'M GOING TO TELL YOU A STORY


?
DO YOU KNOW THE CHINESE PHILOSOPHY OF ZHUANG ZHOU?
HE'S THE SUCCESSOR OF LAOZI, THE FOUNDER OF TAOISM
I'VE ALREADY HEARD OF LAOZI, BUT
IT'S OKAY IT'S NOT VERY IMPORTANT
IN ONE OF THE INNER CHAPTERS OF HIS BOOK "ZHUANGZI", THERE IS A PARABLE THAT SAYS
"MOURYOU KAGE NI TOU" (SPIRITS QUESTION THEIR SHADOWS.)


HERE, MOURYOU REFERS TO THE LIGHT SHADOW THAT FORMS AROUND THE DARK SHADOW. AND THEN THAT SHADOW BEGINS TO COMPLAIN TO THE DARK SHADOW
"ONCE I REALIZE YOU ARE WALKING, YOU STOP AND ONCE I REALIZE YOU ARE SITTING YOU STAND UP; HOW IS IT THAT YOU ARE NOT FREE?"
THEN THE DARK SHADOW REPLIES

"MY MOVEMENTS ARE LIKE THE STOMACH OF A SNAKE OR THE WINGS OF A CICADA."
"BUT HE MAY BE IN THE SAME SITUATION AS ME TOO."
"IT MAY BE TRUE THAT I ACT ACCORDING TO MY MASTER'S WILL."
"IN SHORT, WE ARE NOT IN CONTROL OF OUR MOVEMENTS."
"WE DO NOT KNOW WHY WE ACT LIKE THIS, OR WHY WE DO NOT."
THAT'S RIGHT...
BECAUSE I...
NONSENSE!
IT IS NOTHING BUT A MERE STORY!

I AM.
SO,
THIS FABLE IMPLIES THAT THE EGO DOES NOT EXIST, RIGHT?
THAT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE!
THERE ARE DIFFERENT INTERPRETATION, BUT EVEN IF IT SEEMS ABSURD TO YOU, KEEP IT IN MIND
AT LEAST, YOU NOW KNOW THAT SUCH A WAY OF THINKING EXISTS
ゴソ
REMEMBER THIS: YOU FORGE YOURSELF BY INTERACTING WITH THE OTHER. YOU ARE YOURSELF BECAUSE THERE ARE OTHERS
OTHERWISE,
スラ
YOU WILL BE LIKE THE LIGHT SHADOW FROM THE STORY...

I'M SURROUNDED BY PEOPLE AND THEY MEAN A LOT TO ME...
THAT'S TRUE BUT...
THEN, THAT IS ENOUGH.
YOU FOUND IN ME YOUR OWN SELF.
SO I WANT...
MY GRANDPA AND MY SISTER
BY THE SIX SECRET INCANTATIONS PASSED DOWN BY OUYOU
THE SPIRIT SHALL BE LOCKED
INSIDE ITS OWN VOID
GO BACK TO YOUR CAGE!
AND STAY THERE!

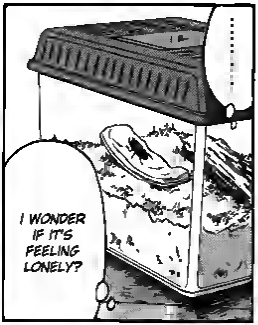
ゴゴゴ
!
FROM MY STANDPOINT, YOU ARE THE ONE LOCKED INSIDE.
BUT NO NEED TO WORRY
DO YOU THINK THIS CAGE IS MADE TO TRAP ME?
SOMEDAY, YOU WILL GET OUT OF THIS CAGE AND WE WILL PLAY TOGETHER FREELY.
FOR OUR PATHS WILL COLLIDE AGAIN.
I WILL WAIT IMPATIENTLY FOR THAT DAY
BECAUSE I WANT TO BE WITH YOU AGAIN.

!
HUH?!
WHY AM I
HEY!
WAKE UP!
AAAAH!

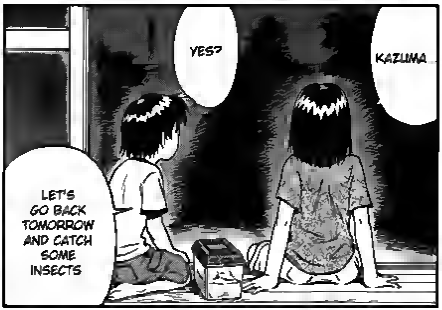
IT'S ALL RIGHT. I'M RELIEVED NOW
BUT... WHY?!
CAN'T SEE THE REASON WHY IT'S ALL RIGHT!

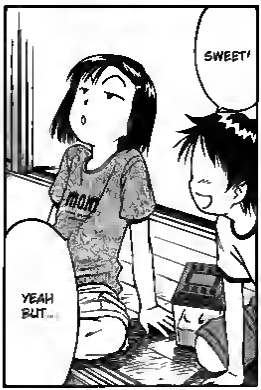
IT HURTS
LET'S GO HOME

THE WATERMELONS ARE READY!
NOTHING
WHAT ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT?

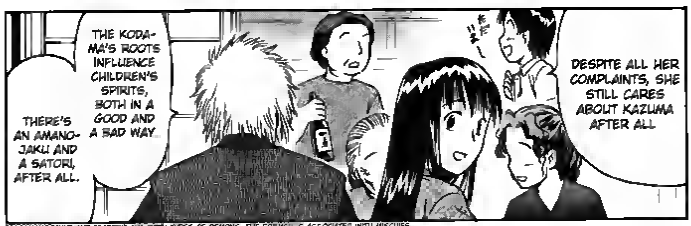

I WONDER IF IT'S FEELING LONELY?

REALLY?
GOT NOTHING ELSE TO DO


YES?
KAZUMA
LET'S GO BACK TOMORROW AND CATCH SOME INSECTS

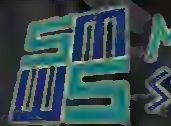

SWEET!
YEAH BUT...

WE'LL PLAY IN THE FOREST
LET'S ENJOY AS LONG AS YOU'RE STILL HERE


DESPITE ALL HER COMPLAINTS, SHE STILL CARES ABOUT KAZUMA AFTER ALL
THE KODAMA'S ROOTS INFLUENCE CHILDREN'S SPIRITS, BOTH IN A GOOD AND A BAD WAY.
THERE'S AN AMANOJAKU AND A SATORI, AFTER ALL.

*TN "AMANOJAKU" AND "SATORI" ARE BOTH TYPES OF DEMONS. THE FORMER IS ASSOCIATED WITH MISCHIEF, WHILE THE LATTER HAS THE ABILITY TO UNDERSTAND, THAT IS, READ PEOPLE'S MINDS.

AS THEY GROW UP, CHILDREN BEGIN TO DISOBEY AND ALSO UNDERSTAND OTHERS.
IT IS BY IMITATING THE OTHERS THAT THEY ACQUIRE THESE ABILITIES.
AAAH, OKAY!
HUH? WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?
IT'S A GENERALITY.



RECRUITING

WE'RE IN DIRE NEED OF

TRANSLATORS

IF YOU WANNA HELP, CONTACT
US THROUGH OUR EMAIL
MANGASYNDROME90@GMAIL.COM
OR LEAVE A COMMENT ON OUR BLOG
HTTP://MANGASYNDROME.BLOGSPOT.COM